



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[OMB Control Number 1615-NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activities; New Collection: Petition for Nonimmigrant

Worker: H-2A Classification and Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker: H-2B Classification

AGENCY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: 30-day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, must be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov> under e-Docket ID number USCIS-2021-0017. All submissions received must include the OMB Control Number 1615-NEW in the body of the letter, the agency name and Docket ID USCIS-2021-0017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Regulatory Coordination Division, Samantha Deshommes, Chief, Telephone number (240) 721-3000 (This is not a toll-free number; comments are not accepted via telephone message.). Please note contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. It is not for individual case status inquiries. Applicants seeking information about the status of their

individual cases can check Case Status Online, available at the USCIS Web site at <http://www.uscis.gov>, or call the USCIS Contact Center at (800) 375-5283; TTY (800) 767-1833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments:

The information collection notice was previously published in the *Federal Register* on August 18, 2021, at 86 FR 46260 allowing for a 60-day public comment period. USCIS received fourteen comments in connection with the 60-day notice. USCIS made edits to the I-129H2A and I-129H2B Forms and Instructions in response to comments.

You may access the information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal site at: <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter USCIS-2021-0017 in the search box. The comments submitted to USCIS via this method are visible to the Office of Management and Budget and comply with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.12(c). All submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to consider limiting the amount of personal information that you provide in any voluntary submission you make to DHS. DHS may withhold information provided in comments from public viewing that it determines may impact the privacy of an individual or is offensive. For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this Information Collection:

- (1) Type of Information Collection: New Collection.
- (2) Title of the Form/Collection: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker: H-2A Classification and Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker: H-2B Classification.
- (3) Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the DHS sponsoring the collection: I-129H2A; I-129H2B; USCIS.
- (4) Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:
Primary: Business or other for-profit. USCIS will use the data collected on Form I-129H2A to determine eligibility for the requested H-2A nonimmigrant petition and/or requests to extend or change nonimmigrant status. An employer or agent uses this form to petition USCIS for a noncitizen to temporarily enter as an H-2A nonimmigrant. An employer or agent also uses this form to request an extension of stay or change of status on behalf of the noncitizen worker.
USCIS will use the data collected on Form I-129H2B to determine eligibility for the requested H-2B nonimmigrant petition and/or requests to extend or change nonimmigrant status. An employer or agent uses this form to petition USCIS for a noncitizen to temporarily enter as an H-2B nonimmigrant. An employer or agent also uses this form to request an extension of stay or change of status on behalf of the noncitizen worker.

Both forms serve the purpose of standardizing requests for nonimmigrant workers in the H-2A and H-2B classifications and ensuring that basic information required for assessing

eligibility is provided by the petitioner. They also assist USCIS in compiling information required by Congress annually to assess effectiveness and utilization of certain nonimmigrant classifications.

(5) An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: The estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form I-129H2A is 12,008 and the estimated hour burden per response is 3 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form I-129H2A Named Worker Attachment is 2,740 with 24 responses per respondent and the estimated hour burden per response is 0.5 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form I-129H2A Joint Employer Supplement is 5,000 and the estimated hour burden per response is 0.167 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form I-129H2B is 6,340 and the estimated hour burden per response is 3 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form I-129H2B Named Worker Attachment is 2,421 with 24 responses per respondent and the estimated hour burden per response is 0.5 hours.

(6) An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: The total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 117,811 hours.

(7) An estimate of the total public burden (in cost) associated with the collection: The estimated total annual cost burden associated with this collection of information is \$12,024,220.

Dated: February 9, 2022.

Samantha L Deshommes,
Chief,
Regulatory Coordination Division,
Office of Policy and Strategy,
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Department of Homeland Security.

BILLING CODE 9111-97

